scientific departments. The larger coverage of employees of S&T staff in the scheme has been done with a view to attracting best talent at all levels (including technical support staff) in the interest of research and developmental work. In respect of non-technical posts, recruitment & promotion rules *i.e.* CSIR Administrative Services (Recruitment & Promotion) Rules, 1982 are more or less on the pattern of Government of India Rules. Slight deviations like relaxation in the residency period due to non-availability of eligible candidates in the feeder cadre have been made with the approval of the Governing Body, CSIR keeping in view the functional requirements and interests of the organization. The rules are updated/ revised from time to time with the approval of the Governing Body.

Buying of WRF from USA

3222. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Science and Technology is buying a new numerical Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Boulder Colorado, USA; and

(b) if so, the cost involved in purchasing WRF model?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) of the United States of America is going to provide its high resolution Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model as part of its ongoing collaboration with the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), without any cost.

(b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above.

Setting up of Bio-Tech parks

3223. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country lags behind several countries in the field of bio-technology;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken for the development of bio-technology in the country;

(c) whether bio-tech parks are proposed to be opened in a few States in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the facilities to be available thereon, State-wise;

(e) whether any bio-tech park is likely to be set up in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, biotechnology in the country has been pogressing steadily in comparison to developing countries. However, the overall business volume of the country in the context of total global business is relatively small. According to a published report in "Bio Spectrum" in June, 2005, the biotech industry has crossed a business of US$ 1.07 billion during the year 2004-05 with a growth of 36.55% over the previous year. For the development of biotechnology, Government has taken several steps like providing grants-in-aid for Research & Development with 30% annual increase in allocation, providing fiscal incentives to industry, keeping biotech products out of price control, supporting biotech parks, simplifying regulatory procedures capacity building and human resources development for academia, research & industry.

(c) and (d) Several State Governments are in the process of setting up Biotech Parks/Biotech Incubation Centres with active consultation with the Department of Biotechnology. So far, states like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh have sent their proposals for financial assistance. Department of Biotechnology has funded one Biotechnology Park at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and funded five Biotechnology Incubation Centres one each at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore, Karnataka, Trivendrum, Kerala, Chandigarh, Punjab and Solan, Himachal Pradesh. Biotech activities of these states include various areas like health care, agriculture, tissue culture, medicinal & aromatic plants, environment, industrial applications and renewable energy.

(e) to (g) The Tamil Nadu Government has established the "TICEL Bio-Park" to promote biotechnology research & development and industrial activities at Taramani, Chennai. The Department of Biotechnology has received the proposal from the TICEL Bio-Park for financial and infrastructure support.

Investment in Bio-Tech Sector

3224. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more investors are showing keen interest for investing on bio-pharmaceuticals, bio-informatics and Bio-tech services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment expected in the above sectors in the next five years; and

(d) the investment that bio-tech sector got since 1977, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The industry is steadily recognizing the potential of biotechnology applications including biopharmaceuticals, bioinformatics and bioservices, as per the survey conducted by Bio Spectrum in association with Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) in 2005. Several measures have been taken by the government for the promotion of biotech sector. The Government of India has established Technology Development Board (TDB) and Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the Department of Science and Technology for providing soft loans to the entrepreneurs. There is a specific expert group in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for identification and implementation of product and technology oriented research, for promoting investment in the Biotech sector. Several foreign companies have also expressed interest in investing in India either for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) or through joint ventures.

(c) The biotechnology sector is fast growing in the country and as per the Bio Spectrum-ABLE survey for the year 2005 the Biotech Industry which includes Bio Pharma, Bio Services, Bio Agri, Bio Industrial and Bio Informatics has recorded 36.55 percent growth and crossed $1 billion